

EXHIBIT NO. 18

DATE: 3/24/09

BILL NO. HB 531

LT Rich McLane**Bozeman Police Department****615 S. 16th****Bozeman, MT 59715****2/27/09**

I am not a resident of Bozeman but we visit often as our families still live there.

I was, however, born and raised in Bozeman and have witnessed its ever increasing population and thus the traffic problems that come with it.

I can say with certainty that every time we come home we witness time and time again, people speeding to get through lights as well as people running red lights as if they weren't even there.

My young son and myself witnessed one such driver narrowly miss my husband on Main street while trying to make it through the light before it turned red. Fortunately my husband jumped back and escaped being hit but that particular driver gunned his truck well before the intersection and still ran a blatant red light.

One would argue that these red lights will cause more rear end collisions as people are stopping more sudden. Correct me if I am wrong but aren't traffic lights set to allow a safe stopping time considering the speed limit when the light turns yellow? That is what yellow lights are for. I feel that a rear end collision while stopping at a traffic light would cause far less injuries than being hit broad side at 40 MPH. If we install red light cameras, people will be more vigilant of these yellow lights thus cutting back on the other traffic issues such as speeding and tailgating.

It amazes me that we would put peoples safety on the back burner and instead focus more on peoples feelings, trying to protect the guilty, and how these red light cameras may inconvenience their lives. Is it really that inconvenient to stop at a one minute red light? Imagine the inconvenience of hitting or killing someone.

This should have nothing to do with feelings, inconveniences or lack of human elements involved in a traffic stop. This should have everything to do with safety and trying to get Bozeman's ever increasing traffic problem under control.

Why do we need a real person to confront after we have broke the law if the evidence is right there in front of you. Tough to argue that!!

If it is evident to me it is evident to a lot of other people that Bozeman lacks a sufficient number of law enforcement to even put a dent in the traffic problems. These cameras would make a huge difference allowing police to focus on more critical issues.

I would ask that you reconsider your thoughts about red light cameras and please consider the dire need for increased safety and traffic control in Bozeman.

I thank you, my family thanks you!

Sincerely,

Shanna J. Arneson